



1731

PATENT
03466-P0001B WWW/SBS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Hans-Wulf Pfeiffer
Serial No. 09/929,267	Filing Date: August 14, 2001
Title of Application:	Method Of Increasing The Boundary Layer Strength On Surfaces Of Workpieces Made Of Brittle Hard Materials
Confirmation No. 9985	Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner	James Derrington

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Response to Official Action

Dear Sir:

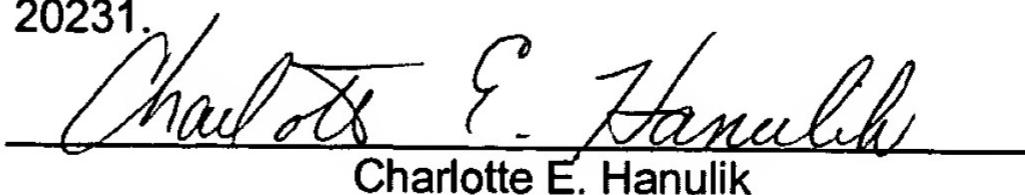
In response to the Official Action of September 6, 2002, Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks.

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,128,083 to Brooks et al. ("the '083 patent"), U.S. Patent No. 3,573,023 to Thomas et al. ("the '023 patent") or the Abstract of JP04108675 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,228,245 to Rice et al. ("the '245 patent"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

All the claims of the present invention require, among other elements, providing a zirconia-free ceramic workpiece at room temperature, creating a plastic deformation within a predefined surface area, with a tool having a diameter within the range of about .1 mm to 4 mm.

Mailing Certificate: I hereby certify that this correspondence is today being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as *First Class Mail* in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks; Washington, DC 20231.

November 12, 2002
Charlotte E. Hanulik